

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of crimping an electrical contact having a closed-section barrel, which is initially generally convex in shape, onto a cable with multiple conducting strands in order to produce a crimped ~~contact~~ assembly, wherein the barrel ~~of which~~ is crimped by deforming ~~the~~ a section thereof of the barrel from ~~an~~ the initially generally convex shape to a final crimped shape in which ~~it~~ the section is compression-necked onto the strands of the cable in such a way that ~~at least one~~ a first portion of the section ~~of the crimp barrel~~ has, in its thickness, at least two adjacent indentations, ~~which extend along the outer periphery of said section and which are directed inward,~~ said method comprising successive steps, ~~which consist~~ of:

inserting ~~the~~ an end of the cable to be crimped into the barrel of the contact; and

compression-necking the barrel onto the cable by a die stamping operation so as to impart to the barrel an intermediate necked form that is generally convex in cross section, and

~~and being characterized in that it comprises, in addition,~~ a punching operation, ~~by means of which~~ to form the indentations ~~are formed~~ in the barrel, said punching

operation being performed after the die stamping operation.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the intermediate necked shape is generally polygonal, particularly hexagonal.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the die stamping operation is carried out by means of a die in two parts, which is squeezed onto the barrel so as to close the die, and the punching operation is carried out while the die is kept closed, the two parts of the die being kept pressed against each other.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the punching operation is carried out by means of a single punch for each pair of adjacent indentations.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said two indentations are formed adjacent in such a way as to define a double indentation in a W shape.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5 wherein said ~~erimped barrel~~ section is formed with a symmetry in relation to at least one first central transverse axis (Y).

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein said section ~~of erimped barrel~~ is formed with a symmetry in relation to a second central transverse axis (Z), which is perpendicular to the first axis.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein said section ~~of crimped barrel~~ is formed with two other indentations, which are symmetrical to the ~~preceding ones~~ the indentations of claim 1 in relation to said first central transverse axis (Y).

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 8, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein said section of crimped barrel is formed with only the four indentations.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the crimped barrel is formed, in a second ~~section~~ portion that is axially displaced in relation to the first ~~section~~ portion, with second indentations that are analogous to ~~these~~ the indentations formed in said first ~~section~~ portion.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the section of the ~~crimped~~ barrel is formed with a generally polygonal outer shape.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein each pair of adjacent indentations is formed on ~~the~~ a same edge of the polygonal shape.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the section of the ~~crimped~~ barrel is formed with a generally hexagonal outer shape.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to the claim 5, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the indentations impart to the conducting strands, in the interior of the barrel, a homogeneous deformation, independently of their individual position in ~~the~~ an interior of the barrel.

15. (Currently amended) A crimping tool ~~for implementing a method in accordance with claim 1,~~ comprising:

a die in two parts, which define, in ~~the~~ an interior, a stamp corresponding to ~~the~~ an intermediate necked shape to be imparted to ~~the~~ a barrel,

~~a means of relative movement of~~ for moving the two parts of the die relative to each other,

at least one punch for making ~~the~~ indentations in the barrel, and

~~a means of movement~~ for moving said punch,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means ~~of movement of~~ for moving the punch are linked to ~~those of the die parts~~ the means for moving the two parts of the die in such a way that, during a crimping operation, the punch is configured to be moved from a retracted position, in which ~~it~~ the punch is disengaged from the stamp of the die, to an active position, in which ~~it~~ the punch projects into the interior of the stamp after the die is closed.

16. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 15, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the die defines, ~~in the~~

~~interior, a stamp, which is generally polygonal, particularly~~  
hexagonal.

17. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 15,  
~~further characterized in that~~ wherein it the at least one  
punch comprises ~~at least one punch with~~ at least two teeth,  
which are provided for jointly making two of the indentations.

18. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 17,  
~~further characterized in that~~ wherein it the at least one  
punch comprises two punches, which are symmetrical in relation  
to a crimping plane (P) of the die, and the ~~associated~~ means  
~~of movement are appropriate~~ for moving the punch is configured  
for displacing ~~them~~ the punches in a symmetric manner in  
relation to this plane (P).

19. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 15,  
~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one punch  
is the punch(es) is (are) dependent on the means ~~of relative~~  
~~movement of~~ for moving the two die parts such that the  
movement of the at least one punch ~~punch(es)~~ from its ~~(their)~~  
retracted position is possible only after the die has been  
closed.

20. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 15,  
~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the means ~~of movement of~~  
for moving the two parts of the die and the means ~~of movement~~  
~~of~~ for moving the punches comprise a joint drive motor and  
transmission units with respective cams, by means of which the  
parts of the die, on the one hand, and the punches, on the  
other hand, are linked to said drive motor.

21. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 15, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the means ~~of movement of~~ for moving the two parts of the die and the means ~~of movement of~~ for moving the punch comprise distinct drive motors, the means ~~of movement of~~ for moving the die parts comprising a means of control of their relative position and the means ~~of movement of~~ for moving the punch comprising a means ~~of~~ for controlling the associated motor, wherein the means for controlling the associated motor is subject to the said means of control.